

The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 51-57 and 61-68 under 35 USC § 102(e) as anticipated by the Saito patent. The Examiner has further rejected applicants' claims 58-61 and 69-72 under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable based on the Suzuki, et al. patent taken in view of the Saito patent. With respect to applicants' claims, as amended, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent claims 51 and 62 have been amended to better define applicants' invention. More particularly, the claims now recite that the built-in memory stores control data for processing the color image signal which is transferred to the external memory. Additionally, the claims also recite that the control device transfers such control data for processing the color image signal to be transferred to the external memory, if the attachment of the external memory is detected by a detecting device. Such a construction is not taught or suggested by the Saito patent.

More particularly, in the Saito patent, as stated in column 4, lines 60-66, "[i]f the presence of connection of the cartridge 12 is confirmed, the system controller sends an address and a read instruction of the header storage area 50 ...to the memory cartridge 12..." Thus, in this patent, only an address and a read instruction are transferred by the controller to external cartridge. There is, therefore, no teaching or suggestion to transfer control data for processing the color image signal to be transferred to an external memory, as recited in applicants' amended independent claims 51 and 62, and their respective dependent claims. Such claims thus patentably distinguish over the Saito patent.

Applicants' independent claims 58, 61, 69 and 72 have also been amended to better define applicants' invention. Claims 58 and 69 now recite an apparatus and method for reproducing an image data stored in a detachable recording medium recording a plurality of image data together with a designation data which designates a standard image data for

controlling from among said plurality of image data . More particularly, in this apparatus and method, the standard image data of the plurality of image data is detected on the basis of the designation data recorded on the recording medium. Then a control value for processing the plurality of image data is generated on the basis of the detected standard image data, and the plurality of image data are processed by using the control value.

Amended claims 61 and 72 recite an apparatus and method for photographing an object to record a plurality of image data on a detachable recording medium. The method and apparatus designate an image data of the plurality of image data to be recorded on the recording medium as a standard image data for white balance control at the time of reproduction, and the designating data for designating the standard image data is then recorded.

Such constructions are not taught or suggested by the Suzuki, et al. and the Saito patents. More particularly, in the Suzuki, et al. patent, as stated in column 4, lines 58-64, the image pickup apparatus comprises "memory means for storing the white balance control voltages from the first and second white balance adjusting means ... thereby performing white balance adjustment by using the stored white balance control voltages." However, the Suzuki, et al. patent does not appear to teach or suggest use of a recording medium recording a plurality of image data together with a designation data which designates a standard image data for controlling from among said plurality of image data, nor does it teach or suggest detecting the standard image data of the plurality of image data on the basis of the recorded designation data and generating a control value on the basis of the detected standard image data for processing the plurality of image data. Additionally, the Suzuki, et al. patent does not teach or suggest designating an image data of the plurality of image data to be recorded on a recording medium as a standard image data for white balance control at the time of reproduction, and then recording the designating data. The Saito patent also fails to teach or suggest such constructions.


Applicants' amended independent claims 58, 61, 69 and 72, and their respective dependent claims, thus patentably distinguish over the Suzuki, et al. and Saito patents.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested

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Respectfully submitted,

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Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

Amend claims 51, 58-62, 69, 71 and 72 as follows:

51. (Amended) An image pickup apparatus for transferring a color image signal to an external memory, comprising:

an image sensor for generating a color image signal;

a built-in memory for storing a control data for processing the color image signal which is transferred to said external memory;

a detecting device for detecting an attachment of said external memory to said image pickup apparatus; and

a control device for transferring the control data stored in said built-in memory to said external memory, [when] if the attachment of said external memory is detected by said detecting device.

58. (Amended) An image reproduction apparatus for reproducing an image data stored in a detachable recording medium recording a plurality of image data together with a designation data which designates a standard image data for controlling from among said plurality of image data, comprising:

a detecting device for detecting said standard image data of the plurality of image data, on the basis of the designation data recorded on said recording medium, and

[obtaining means for processing the standard image data detected by said detecting means to obtain a control value for white balance, and]

a control device for generating a [white control by using the obtained] control value for processing the plurality of [when the] image data, on the basis of said standard image data detected by said detecting device, and processing the plurality of image data by using the control value. [is processed.]

59. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 58, further comprising a display processing [means] device for displaying a reproduced image of the standard image data as well as the standard image data on a same image window.

60. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 58, further comprising a display processing [means] device for displaying a reproduced image of the image data processed [white-balance-controlled] by said control device among the plurality of image data on a same image window.

61. (Amended) An image pickup apparatus for photographing an object to record a plurality of image data on a detachable recording medium, comprising:
a designating device for designating an image data of the plurality of [whether or not the] image data, to be recorded on said recording medium, [is used] as a standard image data for white balance control at the time of reproduction; and

a designated image data recording device for recording a designating data for designating the standard image data.

62. (Amended) A method of transferring a color image signal to an external memory using an image pickup apparatus, comprising:

generating with an image sensor a color image signal;

storing in a built-in memory control data for processing the color image signal which is transferred to said external memory;

detecting an attachment of said external memory to said image pickup apparatus; and

transferring the control data stored in said built-in memory to said external memory with a control device, [when] if the attachment of said external memory is detected in said detecting step.

69. (Amended) A method of image reproduction for reproducing an image data stored in a detachable recording medium recording a plurality of image data together with a designation data which designates a standard image data for controlling from among said plurality of image data, comprising:

detecting said standard image data on the basis of the designation data recorded on said recording medium;[,]

generating a control value for processing the plurality of image data, on the basis of said standard image data detected by said detecting device; and

processing the plurality of image data by using the control value.

[obtaining for processing the standard image data detected in said detecting step to obtain a control value for white balance, and

controlling for white control by using the obtained control value when the image data is processed.]

71. (Amended) A method according to claim 69, further comprising displaying a reproduced image of the image data [white-balance-controlled] processed by said control device among the plurality of image data on a same image window.

72. (Amended) A method for photographing an object to record a plurality of image data on a detachable recording medium, comprising:

[a] designating [whether or not] an image data of the plurality of the image data, to be recorded on said recording medium [is used], as a standard image data for white balance control at the time of reproduction; and

recording a designating data for designating the standard image data.

Add claims 73 to 76 as follows:

73. An apparatus according to claim 58, wherein said control value is a white balance control value.

74. An apparatus according to claim 58 wherein said control value is a white balance control value.

75. A method according to claim 69, wherein said control value is a white balance control value

76. A method according to claim 72, wherein said control value is a white balance control value.